

middle ground between time and eternity, earth and heaven, there is a handy dumping place where we will shuffle off our sins, our imperfections, our worldly mind, our selfishness and self love, our covetousness, or whatever else of the world or the flesh or the devil we may have along in the way of baggage, and so go into heaven at least in tolerable shape. This also is a delusion.

But the text and a hundred like it plainly points the way to heaven, and rightly puts the divine nature before the divine place. Now the divine nature is certainly not the diabolical nature of the unregenerate, neither is it the compromise nature of the worldly Christian. It is a far different thing, so different indeed as to be inconceivable to the worldly mind, incomprehensible to the natural man. We rightly look upon the Incarnation as the greatest miracle of the ages, but that miracle is wrought over and over again in the experience of every true believer, for by the Holy Ghost, Christ is formed in us. That is the whole story, Christ in us, Christ in us, the image of the Father, the hope of glory.

WHAT THE CHURCH IS NOT

E. P. MARVIN

The church is not a house of merchandise, a bureau of amusement, or a social club. None of these things are nominated in her joint high commission, and her franchise does not contemplate in leadership the executive ability of a railroad president for administration.

Individually, her members may earn money in any honest way, but corporately they have nothing to do with money but to receive free-will offerings as an act of worship, and transmit them to the proper subjects. We are plainly taught by precept and example, from Genesis to Revelation, that God approves only one method of raising money for his cause.

Christ twice purged the court of merchandising. What would he now say and do if he were to return and see the huckstering, junketing, and vaudeville of modern churches?

It is no function of the blood-bought church to entertain or amuse any one, either with legitimate drama, Bible scenes, or the degrading vaudeville of the world. Christ and his apostles never dreamed of putting the gospel on stage exhibition, or of making its administration an amusement for lost men.

The less piety a church has the more oysters and ice-cream it takes to run it, and the faster it runs from God. The church is not to cultivate the social element, in the realm of worldliness, and thus paralyze the spiritual life. These festal scenes of carnal revelry and ungodly mirth, are the apostasy of the primitive Agapæ and of the Methodist love-feast. The true bride does not sit down to eat and drink in fellowship with the world, and rise up to play. The carnality and frivolity is a part of the last prophetic apostasy.

We need a new crusade, not to rescue the Holy Sepulchre from the Turk, but to rescue

the Holy Place from the caterer and the showman. Away with this "amusement heresy and cooking-stove apostasy." Do not drag the royal robes of the expectant Bride of Christ through a defiling church kitchen.

The early church "held the young" by spiritual forces alone and in the face of flames and lions. The Puritan and all the reformed churches of Christendom held the young better than now, before they ever employed these meretricious attractions of the world. Spiritual forces are the strongest of all. Christ said: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

The Sunday School

SOME SUNDAY-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

CLARENCE YODER

The Sunday school is generally recognized as an essential department of church work. And most schools are represented at Sunday-school conventions, and adopt new ideas that can be adapted to their schools. There are a few people who think that "Everybody can run a Sunday-school," and I might add that there are some who seem to think a Sunday-school ought to run itself. Success in the Sunday school as elsewhere is dependent largely on the amount of intelligent labor that is put into it. The successful business man, at regular intervals, takes an invoice of the stock to find the profit and loss in the business. Would it not be well for the Sunday school to pursue a similar plan. What has been the result of the year's work? How does the attendance compare with that of a year ago? Has there been a material increase of Bible knowledge, of history, geography, biography? An increased reverence for the Book? Has the Christ life been presented to the school in such a way that it has resulted in the conversion of souls? If these questions can be answered satisfactorily, rejoice that the school is doing efficient work. If on the other hand there is a lack of interest in the school; if scholars are going elsewhere or have dropped out entirely, if there is not a better knowledge of the Bible, if there have been no conversions during the year, then there is no better time than now to consider the condition of the school; raise the standard and see what can be done to increase the efficiency of the school and make it a greater power for good. In two schools similarly located, if one has school every Sunday and begins on time, even tho the officers and teachers are not of the best, I have more confidence in its success, than in the success of the other, no matter how well qualified the officers and teachers may be, if for any reason the school habitually begins from fifteen minutes to one half hour late and does not hold more than thirty-five or forty sessions during the year. Do not expect outsiders to take any great amount of interest in the school, if the members show their lack of interest in it by going elsewhere whenever the weather is threatening or the roads are bad?

Do you feel that you ought to do better work during the coming year? Be systematic. Plan your work. Even a poor plan is better than none. See how many people there are in the vicinity of the church who do not attend services anywhere and make an honest effort to secure their attendance. You will not be able to help them unless they can be induced to attend. Begin on time. This object can be attained in a more satisfactory manner by beginning on time than by any amount of talking about it. Do not expect an increase of Bible knowledge without a proportionate amount of study. Consider the Sunday-school as an opportunity for service and not as a place of entertainment. Work and pray for the success of the school. And may the effort be fruitful of an abundant harvest in the kingdom of God.

The Mission Field

Washington, D. C.

Since last report the church building fund has been encouraged thus:

L. W. Peckinpugh, Oakville, Ind., (cash.)	\$ 1 00
T. J. Holsinger, wife and daughter, Oakville, Ind., (cash.)	3 00
Geo. Hoover, Oakville, Ind., (cash.)	1 00
Mary A. Snyder, Glover's Gap, W. Va., (cash.)	5 00
"A Sister," Miamisburg, O., (per Rev. Tom- baugh,) (cash.)	5 00
Mrs. M. Alice Leonard, North Ontario, Calif., (pledged)	5 00
Mrs. Laura Slotter, North Ontario, Calif., (pledged.)	5 00
Previously reported,	\$524 03
Total,	\$549 03
W. M. LYON.	

116 Fourth St., S. E.

WASHINGTON CITY ECHOES

Notwithstanding the awful prevalence of the grip, still we have much to be thankful for. Last week your unworthy servant had his turn. Glad to be able to say it was short, even tho not so sweet; since then our little boy has been complaining, but we still trust for the better soon.

You will notice in another column that our church building fund has been growing nicely the last week. Ten dollars pledged from God's children in California, and fifteen dollars cash from others who love the Lord. Would that this could be kept up now for several weeks and very soon we would be able to purchase the lot for the chapel. The pledges and cash received from the members and friends residing in this city have not yet been published. Remember, dear brethren and sisters, all we ask now is the pledge. Just drop a card; but if you prefer to send the cash it will be safely kept till the time for purchasing.

I don't know why it is but for some time I have felt that we are nearing the time of a great awakening among our people, and I trust that in this case my feelings will prove a correct guide; surely there is great need for improvement, and when once all are thoroughly enthused by the Holy Spirit missions will not go begging.